

BRIAN PULIDO'S

# Lady Death



ABANDON  
ALL HOPE

US \$2.99  
ISSUE 1/2

AVATAR™  
shaw001

BRIAN PULIDO'S

# Lady Death

## ABANDON ALL HOPE

CREATED AND WRITTEN BY  
BRIAN PULIDO

PENCILS  
RON ADRIAN

INKS  
ROB LEAN

COLORS  
CHRIS MENDOZA

CHARACTER DESIGN  
RON ADRIAN  
DATTY

REGULAR, WRAP COVERS  
RON ADRIAN  
COLOR BY GREG WALLER

VENGEANCE, DEADLY EMPRESS COVERS  
MATT MARTIN  
COLOR BY CHRIS MENDOZA

PREMIUM COVER  
PAULO SIQUEIRA  
COLOR BY GREG WALLER

RYP COVER  
JUAN JOSE RYP  
COLOR BY GREG WALLER

COMMEMORATIVE COVER  
GABRIEL REARTE  
INKS BY DATTY  
COLOR BY CHRIS MENDOZA

PULIDO INTERVIEW  
DAVE BALANCE

EDITOR IN CHIEF  
WILLIAM CHRISTENSEN

CREATIVE DIRECTOR  
MARK SEIFERT

[WWW.AVATARPRESS.COM](http://WWW.AVATARPRESS.COM)  
[WWW.LADYDEATHWORLD.COM](http://WWW.LADYDEATHWORLD.COM)

 **AVATAR**™

BRIAN PULIDO'S LADY DEATH: ABANDON ALL HOPE #1/2, April 2005. Published by Avatar Press, Inc., 8 Triumph Drive, Urbana, IL 61802. ©2005 Avatar Press, Inc. Lady Death® and all related properties TM & ©2005 Mischief Maker Media, Inc. and Avatar Press, Inc. All characters as depicted in this story are over the age of 18. The stories, characters, and institutions mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional.



THE BLACKLANDS.

SHE CAME HERE CLOSE  
TO TWO YEARS AGO.  
AN INNOCENT GIRL  
NAMED HOPE.

LOST AND ABANDONED,  
SHE ADAPTED.

OVERCAME.

SHE TRANSFORMED INTO  
A GODDESS, FEARED BY  
MANY, RESPECTED BY ALL.

SHE BECAME -

**Lady Death!**


THEY  
COME!

STEADY  
STEADY  
NOW.

WE  
DON'T KNOW  
WHAT NIGHTMARE  
SAGOS IS HEAPING  
UPON US THIS  
TIME!

JUST GIVE  
THE WORD, MILADY  
AND I'LL CUT THEIR  
THROATS FROM EAR  
TO EAR AND BATHE  
IN THEIR BLOOD!





ARE  
YOU SURE  
ATTACK IS THE BEST  
COURSE OF ACTION.  
LADY DEATH? THEY  
ARE MANY, WE  
ARE FEW.

ALWAYS  
RIDDLES  
WITH YOU,  
WARGOTH.

WHAT  
ELSE  
WOULD YOU  
SUGGEST?


IT IS  
YOUR TASK TO  
DETERMINE OUR  
COURSE OF ACTION.  
I SIMPLY FOLLOW  
YOUR LEAD.

YOU  
BASTARD!

THEN  
ONTO--

**WAR!!!**





STRIKE  
HARD AND  
FAST! DON'T  
LEAVE ONE  
OF THEM  
STANDING!



WERE  
IT ONLY  
THAT EASY,  
HOPE.

HOW  
LONG HAVE YOU  
BEEN SEARCHING?  
ALMOST TWO YEARS.  
PRAY SAGOS HAS LEFT  
YOUR DEAR MOTHER  
INTACT.

THE  
SOONER WE END  
THIS, THE SOONER  
I CAN TRACK DOWN  
SAGOS AND FREE MY  
MOTHER FOR ONCE  
AND FOR ALL.

THEN  
DON'T STAND  
IDLY BY. TELL  
ME WHAT  
TO--

WHAMPH!



I'LL  
GET HER,  
WARGOTH.

NO,  
SATASHA. LET HER  
FEND FOR HERSELF.  
WE ARE HER MENTORS,  
YET SHE DOESN'T USE  
US. SHE WANTS US TO  
SOLVE EVERYTHING  
FOR HER.

I WON'T.  
SHE'LL NEVER  
LEARN THAT  
WAY.

WHAT  
IF SHE  
DIES?

THEN THE  
BLACKLANDS ARE  
LOST AND OUR  
EFFORTS ARE  
FOR NAUGHT.



THERE ARE FAR TOO MANY, THEY APPEAR TO MULTIPLY AS WE VANQUISH THEM.

THEY'LL WEAR US DOWN THEN—

IF LADY DEATH IS EVER TO LEAD THE FORCES OF THE BLACKLANDS, SHE MUST USE HER WITS AND SAVVY.

SPLAT!

STOP THIS AT ONCE, ALL OF YOU

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US DO MILADY?

GRAAAAA

SLACK

THANK YOU.

PLEASE SAYASHA I'M ONTO YOU. YOU ARE A MASTER SPELL-CASTER. YOU ARE FEIGNING WEAKNESS TO DRAW ME TO BATTLE ANOTHER OF WARGOTH'S MANIPULATIONS.

HE WANTS YOU TO BE YOUR BEST.

WE CANNOT DEFEAT SAGOS WITH LESS.





THESE CREATURES ARE MORE OF SAGO'S TRICKS.

MEANT TO SLOW US DOWN, AND PLAY INTO MY DAMNED RAGE!

YOU **KNEW** THIS, DIDN'T YOU?

OF COURSE.

IF YOU ARE TO UNDERSTAND THE WAYS OF MAGIC, YOU MUST LEARN CERTAIN THINGS ON YOUR OWN.

YOU'LL LET OUR FORCES DIE

I'LL LET **EVERYONE** DIE, SATASHA, MYSELF INCLUDED!

YOU KNOW THE BLACKLANDS HOPE, **DAMN IT**, BUT IF YOU DON'T REALIZE YOUR POTENTIAL, YOU'RE WORTHLESS TO US ALL.

THEY'RE COMING.



LISTEN.  
JOIN YOUR POWERS WITH MINE.

TOGETHER, WE'LL PUT AN END TO THIS SKIRMISH.

WE'VE LOST MANY AND WE ARE NOT YET NEAR OUR GOAL.

SAGOS IS A CLEVER TYRANT.

GOOD WORK, LADY DEATH.

SPARE ME YOUR FALSE ADMIRATION, WARGOTH.

YOU AND I KNOW WE HAVE LITTLE OR NO CHANCE AGAINST SAGOS.

BUT STILL, I WILL OPPOSE HIM WITH EVERY OUNCE OF MY BEING.

LET THE BLACKLANDS TREMBLE.

THERE'S **DEATH** TO BE DONE!

CONTINUED IN #1!



I've been buddies with Lady Death creator Brian Pulido for over a decade. Back in the Chaos! days, I co-founded the chaos! Cyber-Fiends, worked conventions with Brian, attended the annual fiend festival and generally stayed close. Hey, I'm a gigantic Lady Death fan, what can I say?

So when I heard about the upcoming "Classic" Lady Death series re-launch from Avatar, I jumped at the opportunity to learn more. Everyone is curious to know how this latest chapter in the diva of death's history will play out. I polled lots of old school Lady Death fans (thanks everybody) and here is what they wanted to know from Brian.



**Q:** What is the name of the first storyline and how does it catch up the reader from the last time we saw the "classic" Lady Death in *Lady Death: Dark Alliance* #3?

**BP:** The first storyline is called Lady Death: Abandon All Hope. It is a four issue series. With Lady Death, we will keep to the limited series format. To help everyone keep the story order straight, we will name each limited series alphabetically. First is "Abandon All hope" for the letter "A", Next will be "Blacklands" for the letter "B" and so on.

We choose limited series story arcs over monthly series because we believe that is how the long time fans like it.

How will it catch readers up from the last time we saw LD in *LD: Dark Alliance* #3? It won't. This is a reboot. We are starting all over again.

**Q:** In a nutshell, what is the new series, *Lady Death: Abandon All Hope*, about?

**BP:** Well first, forget what you think you know. This is a new direction for Lady Death. Don't be too afraid though. This is the "Classic" Lady Death: tough willed, a real ass kicker.

The story is set around 1100 AD and begins in a supernatural realm called the Blacklands. A girl named Hope, now forged into the cold, cruel and alluring warrior Lady Death, searches for her mother who was captured by a warlock called Sagos.

The Blacklands is a god awful, dangerous place filled with monsters, creatures, ancient evils, liars, and thieves. If it's bad, it's there. To put it into fantasy terms, think of it like middle-earth, but without too many good guys - and no hobbits. Though the series is an epic, dark fantasy it has strong horror elements. Stronger than the previous incarnation of Lady Death.

**Q:** Who are those two new characters with Lady Death?

**BP:** Wargoth and Satasha. Wargoth is



a mentor character for LD, but where Wolfram von Bach (in Medieval Lady Death) is a caring mentor, Wargoth is hard to read. He tends to throw LD directly into trouble. Is he shaping her with trials by fire or does he really want her to fail? He's brutal.

Satasha is an adept spell-caster from the southern coast of the Blacklands. She doesn't have the raw, natural talent for magic that LD has, but she's maximized her ability and she's there to teach LD. She is not as nearly as worldly as Wargoth.

**Q:** will there be any general references to any of the Chaos! Comics characters that had any interaction with Lady Death?

**BP:** Most any character that "belonged" specifically to the Lady Death storyline could be used. I'm not saying that they will be used, but there are certainly some options there.

**Q:** can we expect to see more cool outfit changes for Lady Death as we did in the latter Chaos! stories? More softer "bedtime" outfits or more battle armor when the need arises?

**BP:** Absolutely. In *LD Abandon All Hope* #2 she is in a slinky harem outfit. I just finished up a one short story called: *Kiss of Leviathia* and LD has about four or five changes in that one. Mostly though, we will be sticking to her original outfit.

**Q:** Can we expect to see Lady Death use other weapons besides her sword?

**BP:** Yes. For a bit she uses an ax and anything else she can get her hands on. Then an all-new sword, Death-Bringer is crafted for her by "The Silent One", a master weapons crafter.

**Q:** With the classic re-launch is this a way you can go back and maybe correct some of the things you didn't like about the Chaos! version of Lady Death?

**BP:** In a sense, yes. In this version I'll avoid "cosmic" storylines and stay away from "super hero" type storytelling like *Lady Death: Dark Alliance*. I also get to greatly expand Lady Death's first adventure. I make it on a "Lord of the Rings" scale. I plan to keep this story rooted in dark fantasy – with the nasty edge everyone likes with LD.

**Q:** Lady Death came to lead the so-called 'Bad Girl Craze' and now that that particular craze has died, what plans does Brian have to essentially recapture lightning in the bottle and being that many hard-core Chaos! and/or Lady Death fans have moved on to other comics; how will Brian get them back?

**BP:** My plan is to tell fresh, compelling stories with new and unusual characters.

**Q:** Lady Death gained part of her desire (remember that in Hell: Desire equals Power) from being a pawn in Lucifer's games, now without that particular object of hatred and need for revenge against, where will she gain her desire/motivation?

**BP:** Great question. It was the first story point I addressed. If I reveal it to you now, it may blow the story for you, but suffice to say, this issue was addressed. It is the "engine" that runs LD.

**Q:** Will we see 'remakes' of characters such as Vassago, the Nameless Wolves, etc that are as much a part of the character as the character herself?

**BP:** Yes. For example, the Nameless Wolves return in *Lady Death: Abandon All Hope* #2. As far as Vassago and other characters, you'll have to keep reading to find out.

**Q:** Brian has always had a great character creation ideas and thoughts, who will we see come out as her arch-



nemesis?

**BP:** There's Sagos, the warlock who possesses her father's body and has kidnapped her mother or maybe Hemlock, a barbarian assassin for hire or Stigmata. She is one cruel bitch. Then again there's Parish who looks very innocent, but is anything but that. There are lots of cool, „diabolical“ characters coming up.

**Q:** Will there ever be a crossover between Medieval Lady Death and Lady Death.

**BP:** Well I've learned to never say never, but in this case, I can safely say no, they won't cross over. They are targeted for two different audiences and it would be far too weird to do. Too super heroish. That is not to say we won't have some cool cross-overs with both versions of Lady Death, just not with each other.

**Q:** For readers that have heard the "classic" Lady Death is coming back, with the same looks and the same attitude what can potential readers look forward to?

**BP:** I don't know if this is a selling point for you, but I will be the only guy writing Lady Death's adventures. I think the last "Classic" Lady Death I wrote was #1 or #2 of the monthly. It's fun to write her. It gets all my anger out.

**Q:** What types of Lady Death merchandise is in the works?

**BP:** We have a sculpture and bust in the works. We have prints coming out. In the future, expect Zippo lighters, ornaments, T-Shirts and more.

**Q:** What music were you listening to as you wrote Lady Death: Abandon All hope?

**BP:** Keep in mind that last summer/fall I was charting Lady Death's destiny for the next decade. Music was terribly important. In no particular order I listened to: Lamb of God; Ashes of The Wake & As the Palaces Burn, Slipknot; Vol. 3, Black Sabbath (all albums), Dimmu Borgir, Slayer , Megadeth: The System Has Failed and Probot.

The songs that best typify the mood I'm going for are Progenies of The Great Apocalypse by Dimmu Borgir and The Faded Line by Lamb of God.

Thanks for your time, Brian!! Myself and many other Fiends are looking forward to getting the Bitch back

Dave Balance  
Cyber Fiend President/Co Founder  
the Cyber Fiends!  
established April 1997





# WARGOTH

CHARACTER DESIGN CONCEPT  
SKETCH BY RON ADRIAN





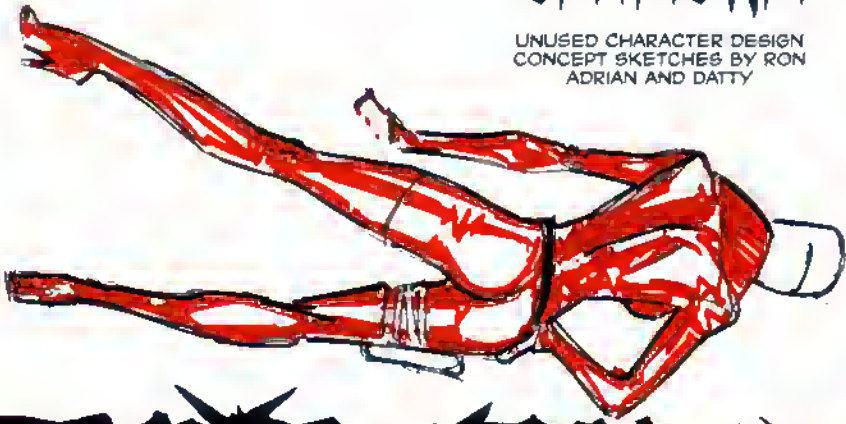


BRACELETES  
ORNAMENTADOS



# SATASHA

UNUSED CHARACTER DESIGN  
CONCEPT SKETCHES BY RON  
ADRIAN AND DATTY



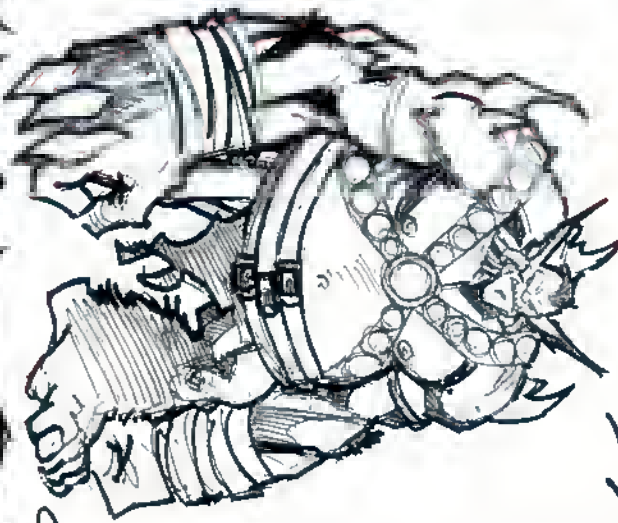


# SATASHA

UNUSED (LOWER RIGHT) AND  
FINAL (MAIN AND UPPER  
RIGHT) CHARACTER DESIGN  
CONCEPT SKETCHES BY  
RON ADRIAN AND DATTY

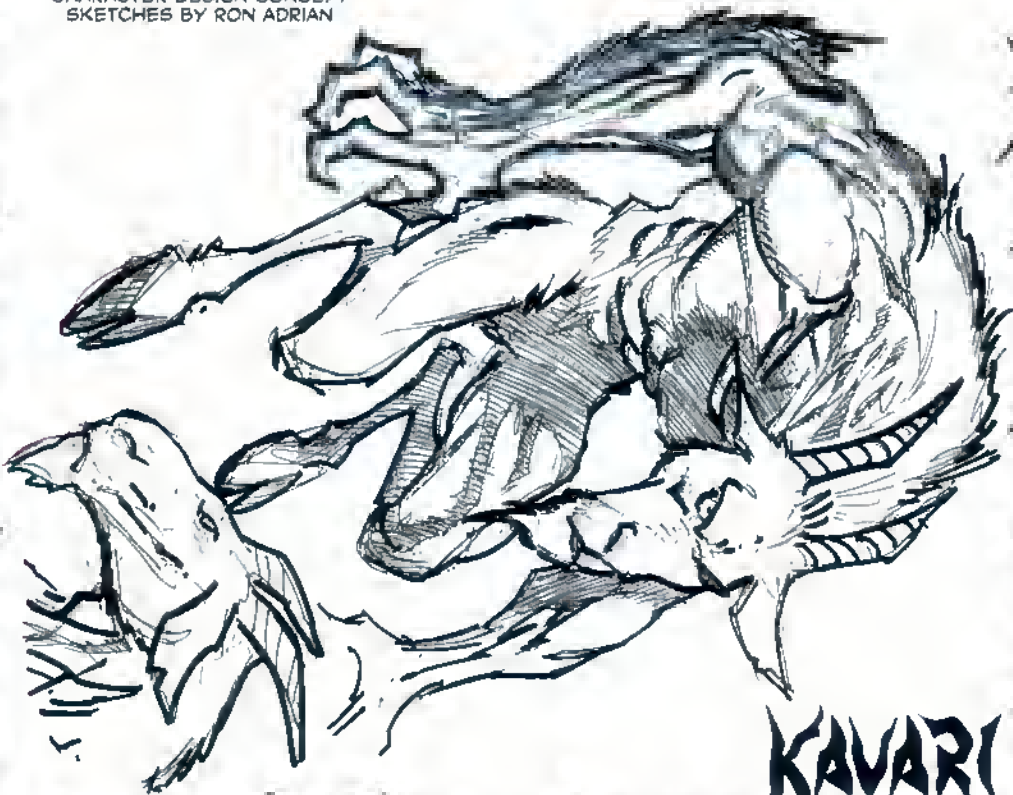






# GRYPHAN

CHARACTER DESIGN CONCEPT  
SKETCHES BY RON ADRIAN



# KAVARI



# MARIUS

CHARACTER DESIGN CONCEPT  
SKETCHES BY RON ADRIAN

